

PORCELAIN MEDALS POSE A MYSTERY

When Phil Iverson sent photocopies of these pieces, I was intrigued. He could provide no background on the pieces and it fell to me to try to figure out the story behind them. Sadly, to this point, I have not been able to obtain any information on them. The best that I can do now is to describe them, and hope our readers can shed some light them.

These medals are made from a ceramic or porcelain material. All three pieces are marked with an MB on the back. I had assumed that they were the same size as the original medals, but this is not the case.



The first piece is a large, Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition piece. The Exposition was held in 1909. It appears to be similar to the large Award Medals that were issued in Gold Award, Silver Award and Bronze Award, but all struck in bronze. The original medal is 76mm (3 inches), while the porcelain is only 66mm. It is in a pale blue with white relief. MB can be clearly seen on the back, along with a pencil marked "2."



Had this been the only piece, I would have assumed (there I go again, making assumptions) that it was contemporary with the AYPE, and thus quite old. But the second piece advances the time frame by 50 years.

The second medal is a copy of the Alaska Statehood medal by Medallic Art Co. It is black with white relief. Unfortunately, much of the relief is a gray rather than white (perhaps it is the black showing through from below), and the medal does not have the contrast that the AYPE medal does.

continued on page 39

EDITOR'S COMMENTS PRICES REALIZED

Our thanks to Phil Iverson for sending in the porcelain medals. It is not every day that you see something really different. We hope that one of our readers can shed some light upon them.

For obvious reasons, not the least of which is lack of artistic talent, your editor will not be participating in the State Medal design contest. So the door is open to you, and we encourage to you do so (providing you can draw a horse and not have people think it is a giraffe). See page 45.

Thanks, as always to Dave Phillips for his wooden nickel column. This segment of the hobby gets overlooked by many. These printed pieces of wood are a tangible record of a business' existence, and like tokens of the gold rush, may be the only evidence that the business existed.

I had space to fill, so search eBay until I found something we had not shown before! eBay is a tremendous resource, even if you are not buying.

And it is snowing again today. High School baseball season was supposed to have it first game today, but that is not going to happen. We were on our way to an early spring, with most of the snow go when we got a dump of eight inches. It has snowed a little more every other day or so since then. The adult baseball league is supposed to have try-outs this Sunday. Not likely. So much for global warming!

Alaskan Token Collector & Polar Numismatist, published 10 times per year, is a publication of Alaska Rare Coins. All articles remain the property of the authors and may not be reprinted without their consent.

 Alaska Rare Coins, P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707
 (907) 452-6461 akcoins@mosquitonet.com

Editor - Dick Hanscom
 Associate Editor - Jerry Cleworth
 Anchorage Correspondent - Ken Rieck
 Canadian Correspondent - vacant
 Yukon Correspondent - Jim Robb

Subscription Rates: (all first class or airmail)
 United States - \$15 per year
 Canada - \$18 per year
 Elsewhere - \$35 per year

Collector's Advertising Rates:
 1 page - \$15 1/2 page - \$8 1/4 page - \$5
 1/8 page (business card size) - \$15 for 5 issues
 Classified ads: 20 cents per line.
 Commercial advertisers: write for rates

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Anchorage , Native Virgin... w/nugget, B-30a	835.00
Cordova , Johnston, 12½¢, B-21b	OB95.00NB
(Katalla) , Ashland, 12½¢, (see last month FTR)	237.06
(Nome) , Alaska, One Lead Pencil, B-2a	66.65
Nome , The Nevada, 12½¢, B-35c	61.04
Palmer , ARRC, 10¢, B-1c	50.00
Palmer , ARRC, \$10, B-1h	69.72
Palmer , ARRC, 5¢ to \$1, 5 pcs. B-1	227.50
Palmer , ARRC, complete set	OB800.00NB
Palmer , ARRC, complete set	RLOB800.00NB
Port Alexander , Art's Place, 50¢, B-1unl	1,275.00
Seward , The Moose, 12½¢, B-7a	306.00
Dawson, YT , Commerce Saloon, ctr plug only	22.50
AYPE , ½ DWT	218.06
AYPE , 1 DWT	282.77
AYPE , Encased Cent, round	78.77
Yukon Overprint Note \$5, CBC (Heritage)	20,700.00

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve W = withdrawn
 BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

From our April 12 auction:

Lot		PR
204	Bethel, Olson Bros. B-3, a-c	15
205	Ketchikan, Masonic Penny, B-61aI	75
206	McCarthy Golden Hotel, B-2, a and b	50
207	Mt. Village, \$1 B-1c with clip	10
208	Liard Post, BC, \$1	120mb*
209	Fairbanks Hockey Medals	75mb*
210	(21) 1990 ½ oz. silver State medals	210
211	2002 1/20 oz. gold State medal	65
212	2007 1/4 oz. gold State medal	240
213	Vogler & Coghill medals	205

Only 2 lots to mail bidders this time, with a total bid reduction on the 2 lots of \$60. No, there is no accounting for the price on lot 213!

From Stack's March 31 auction: Faeroe Islands & Greenland

Lot		PR
2983	Faeroe Islands, 16 sk. CFS	230
2984	Faeroe Island, Klaksvig set	345
2985	Faeroe Islands, Fugleljord set	368
2990	Greenland, Gibbs, set of 4	4,140
2991	Greenland, Ivigut zinc, set of 5	2,645
2993	Greenland, Angmagssalik, set of 8	3,220
2994	Greenland, Cap York, 5 and 10 Kr.	391
2995	Greenland, Domestic coal, set of 7	172
2996	Greenland, Imported coal, set of 7	172
2997	Greenland, Sondre Stromfjord meal checks	69
2998	Greenland, Sondre Stromfjord meal checks	80

PORCELAIN MEDALS, CONT.

Unlike the AYPE medal which presents only one side, there are two pieces, both obverse and reverse for the Statehood medal. As on the AYPE piece, the backs are marked with an "MB." Because of the lack of contrast, scans of the backs are not presented.

While the original medal is 63mm (2½ inches), the porcelain version is only 55mm

The closest to these that I can find are from the State Porcelain Factory of Meissen, Germany. They made porcelain medals starting about the end of the 19th century. After World War I, they made notgeld tokens as well as commemorative medals.



Most of the Meissen that I can find are red or white. Some of the white have colors on parts of the relief. None resemble the pieces presented here, where it appears as though there is a translucent relief over a colored base. And while these are uniface, the porcelain medals and tokens from Meissen all are two sided.

If any reader has some insight on these medals, we would like to hear from you.

SALOON TOKENS OF THE UNITED STATES

by Al Erickson

- * Lists about 6,400 saloon tokens
- * Also lists Canadian, Mexican and International saloon tokens
- * Gives a Certainty of Attribution (CA) number for each maverick
 - * Has a 55 page Maverick index
 - * Gives a price range for all tokens
 - * Gives historical information on selected tokens
- * Has 650 pages of full size text with a soft cover and "lay-flat" binding.

The cost is \$65 postpaid. The catalog will be available on or about March 15, 2008. Due to a limited production run, receipt of your check guarantees a copy of this long overdue saloon token reference. To reserve your copy, send check or money order to:

Al Erickson
P.O. Box 99667
Lakewood, WA 98496
(253) 588-9156
tokenal939@hotmail.com

PROTO-TYPE 1 OZ. GOLD TOKEN BEING READIED

To the right are the dies (inverted for ease of reading) for our new \$1000 in trade, one ounce gold token. We expect that this will be only a proto-type, of limited issue. We will fill special orders for this token as gold becomes available.

The token will be good in trade at our store for \$1,000, with an expiration date of 1-1-(20)09. Obviously, we do not expect any to be “spent,” but we will honor them should someone wish to do so. This just seemed like a fun thing to do when gold was approaching \$1,000!



Unlike our other tokens, these are struck from unattributed gold that we purchase, usually in small quantities. Because the gold will be from different sources, each token will carry an exact weight and Specific Gravity. (S.G.) Numerals for the hundredths of an ounce and the Specific Gravity will be stamped into the token after striking. With the Specific Gravity, we will be able to give an estimate of the fineness, based upon a couple of assumptions.

Alaska gold usually occurs with silver and/or copper, and other trace metals. We calculated the S.G. of an item that is 75% gold, when alloyed with silver or copper. The S.G. when alloyed with silver is about 15.96. The S.G. when alloyed with copper is 14.98. When alloyed with silver, the alloy has a higher S.G. When alloyed with copper, the S.G. is lower. Pretty simple. Silver has a S.G. of 10.49, while copper has a S.G. of 8.96

If we know the S.G., and want to approximate the fineness of the gold, should we assume it is alloyed with silver or copper (unfortunately, we can't do both at the same time)?

If the S.G. is 16.71 (like one of our blanks), doing the math using silver gives an alloy of 82% gold and 18% silver. Using copper as the second metal results in an alloy of 86.5% gold and 13.5% copper. The heavier silver means there is less gold for that S.G., while lighter copper means there needs to be more gold to result in that S.G. Therefore, we will assume that the second metal is silver, and then we are erring on the low side for gold.

We will also be making a “bullion” token later this summer. This die features a mountain and aurora, or an unreasonable facsimile thereof. We will sell these in our shop this summer for 90% of spot. Readers can call or email to lock in a price and then send payment. It will be paired with the 1 oz., S.G. die above.



Now, I just have to wait for parts for my 25 ton, manual hydraulic press, which I broke the first time I used it!

EAGLE CREEK GOLD TOKENS



Set #4 and #5 of our tokens struck from Eagle Creek gold are still available for \$1,200 each, postpaid. This includes a lead strike from the cancelled die.

This is the only way to get the 10 DWT token.

One set of 1/4 DWT and 1/2 DWT is available for \$70. Please add \$5 for shipping on these.

MONEY TO BURN

by David Phillips

Recently, when on a Holland America cruise, and docked at Skagway, one of the ports of call, I got wind of some “new” wooden tokens. I hied myself off to the rumoured location of these woods and discovered “yes indeed, there were three wooden tokens obtainable from Skagway’s Pizza Station,” an eatery, specializing in pizza, with many types of drinks available to help wash it down!



The woods are all the same, except for colour: black, green and red. The legend on the obverse is “I got rail-roaded at the Pizza Station, Skagway, Alaska,” with a cook tossing pizza dough.

I purchased one of each colour, but was not able to conclusively determine if there was a distinction between them, eg; each colour for a different value of drink, as each coloured wood cost the same as the other - \$4.00 each.

I was able to find out that the Pizza Station commenced operation in 2003 and the woods were introduced at that time. Now in August 2007, the woods are being phased out and replaced with a paper chit. Very few woods are left in the till, and soon these few will be all gone!

KENTUCKY FRIED SILVER???

We remember when these were first released, we just don’t know why. Why the format - 1/4 oz.? Why only 3 rather than 4 to make an ounce? In any case, we have a few sets. With silver dropping as I type this, let’s make these \$15 per set, plus \$3 postage and insurance.



SITKA NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK



We first presented these medals in January when Kaye Dethridge listed them on eBay. Kurtis Hawk sent in a copy of what appears to be an advertisement from a magazine for the medals, from which we quote:

“The Russian American Company in cooperation with the National Park Service is proud to present a Limited Edition (3000) Commemorative Coin, honoring the dedication of the historic Russian Bishop’s House in Sitka.

“The Russian Bishop’s House Commemorative Coin is minted by Continental Coin Corporation, the official mint for production of the prestigious ‘88 Summer Games Commemoratives.

“Each coin is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity attesting to a limited edition of 500 silver and 2500 bronze, first and last issue. The .999 Silver one troy ounce coins come in velvet boxes and are 35.00 each. The solid bronze coins are 10.00.

“Alex Shagin has been selected as the designer/sculptor of the coin. Mr. Shagin is an eminent Russian medallist artist who left the Soviet Union just after designing official coins for the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games. Now in America, Mr. Shagin has designed and sculpted masterworks commemorating 15 events of the XXIV Olympiad in Seoul.”

FIRST COIN OF BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

(From the Pobjoy Mint website).



“Pobjoy Mint brings you the World’s First Real Antarctic coin. Never before has any Antarctic territory approved the release of a legal tender coin, although there have been coins from the parent countries of different Territories; no true Antarctic coin has been released before. To commemorate the Centenary of the Granting of the Letters Patent, Pobjoy Mint is thrilled to announce a fabulous issue on behalf of the British Antarctic Territory.

“The British Antarctic Territory is situated in Antarctica and lies south of latitude 60°S and between longitudes 20° and 80°W. The Territory comprises the Antarctic Peninsula with all adjacent islands, the South Orkney and South Shetland Islands and the Weddell Sea, as well as the landmass extending to the South Pole.

“After the discovery of the South Shetland Islands in 1819 by Captain W. Smith, Antarctic explorers followed in quick succession with Edward Bransfield discovering the Antarctic Peninsula in 1820 and Captain G. Powell taking possession of the South Orkney Islands in 1821. It was not until 1908 however that Britain registered its first claim to the Antarctic Territory by Letters Patent – a legal document granted by the Monarch declaring sovereignty over the Territory that is today the British Antarctic Territory. The Territory was governed as three separate dependencies; Graham Land, the South Orkneys and the South Shetlands – administered from Stanley by the Governor of the Falkland Islands.”

Editor’s Note: If ever there was a place that did not need coinage, this is it! However, at least it commemorates a significant event in the Territory, not the XXth Anniversary of the death of Princess Dianna or another Royal Wedding Anniversary.

If this were to be the only coin issued under the authority of the B.A.T. that would be one thing. Unfortunately, B.A.T. will probably follow in the footsteps of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands which have issued numerous coins in cupronickel, silver and gold, simply as a revenue generator. After all, what did Henrik Ibsen have to do with SG&SS?

ARGENTINA HONORS FALKLANDS/MALVINAS VETERANS

We reported a 2 Peso cupronickel 2 Peso coin in the September 2007 issue, indicating that silver and gold coins were also planned.

A 1 Peso silver coin has now been issued. The design is very similar to the 2 Peso, however it is larger in size, and the proof contrast make it a much more attractive coin than the 2 Peso issued for circulation.

Both coins honor the veterans of the Falklands/Malvinas war of 1982.

The silver 1 Peso is struck in .900 fine silver, weighs 25 grams, and is 37mm in diameter.



It only now remains to be seen if a gold coin will also be issued!

FOR THE RECORD



FAIRBANKS: Action Security, good for 1 standard house key. Red on wood.



(KING SALMON): Egli Air Haul, Established 1979. This appears to an Evergreen Mint product. Brz. 39mm.



PORT ALEXANDER: Art's Place, 50¢ in trade, Aluminum, 31mm. Unlisted denomination (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



SEWARD: The Moose, 12½¢ in trade. Black on blue cardboard, 38mm (submitted by Kaye Dethridge).



MAVERICK: Klondike, 30. Brass, 16mm. This was on eBay in Great Britain and realized £13, or about \$26. Some one must know what it is.



SEWARD: Tony's Bar, good for one Liver Massage. Black on wood (submitted by Dave Phillips).



MAVERICK: Alaskan, 123. Aluminum, 45mm. Looks to me to be a hotel room key tag, but from where?



MAVERICK: Klondyke Saloon, 5¢. Brass, about 24mm. Another Klondyke maverick.



HAY RIVER, NWT: \$2 municipal trade coin, 1983. Reported in 1984 without photo.



FT. SIMPSON, NWT: Oldest continuous occupied trading post on the MacKenzie River, 1804. Issued and reported 1984 without photo.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Arctic Warriors, Bomb Squad. Black, blue and yellow on silver?



(FT. WAINWRIGHT): 1/25 Brigade Troops Battalion, 1/25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Red, yellow, blue, black and green on gold. Actual size 45mm.



ELMENDORF A.F.B.: Multiple units noted, too small to read in photo. Looks familiar but I can't find that I have run it before. White, blue, red, black, green and yellow on oxidized silver.



(FT. WAINWRIGHT): 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, Arctic Bobcats, Stryker, Predator...Not Prey. Blue, red, green, white, yellow and gold on gold. Actual size 50mm.



FT. WAINWRIGHT: 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry, Arctic Wolves. Actual size 50mm. Red, white, black, green and yellow on bronze.



(FT. WAINWRIGHT): 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Strike First, Strike Hard, Arctic Wolves, Award for Excellence. Red, yellow and green on oxidized silver. Actual size 52mm.



(FT. WAINWRIGHT): 5th Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 2006. Squadron Command Team Award for Excellence. Red, black, white, blue, yellow on gold. Actual size 44mm.



ALASKA: U.S. Army Alaska, Re-enlistment. White, blue, yellow, black and red on oxidized silver.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS, cont.



KEFLAVIK: U.S. Naval Hospital, Presented by the Command Master Chief. Blue and white on bronze.



ALASKA MINER SILVER!



We finally have the **Innok Resources** medal of Ophir, just released this year.



Here is a medal that we very rarely see. The Alaska Miners Association 50th anniversary from 1989 features a dredge behind a miner driving a steam point. Minted by Sunshine.

We only have 2 of each, and they are \$30 each plus postage - \$3 for 1, \$5 for two. A phone call or email would be a good idea on these.

KEFLAVIK N.A.S.: Naval Security. Red, white and blue on bronze. About 40mm (illustrated in left column).



N.A.S. KEFLAVIK: Anti-Terrorism Force Protection. Red, white, blue, green, yellow and gray on silver, 50mm.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Most Challenge Coins are about 38 to 40mm. Some are larger, some smaller. All are shown at about 38mm, but this may not be actual size. Actual size is noted where known. If the enamel is shown "on gold" or "on silver", this should be assumed to be gold colored or silver colored and not the actual metal.

STATE MEDAL DESIGN CONTEST

The Alaska Mint has announced the opening of acceptance of designs for the 2009 Official State of Alaska Medal.

The contest is open to all Alaskans with a year or more of residency. The design will be selected by the State of Alaska Arts Council and become the property of the State of Alaska.

Designs must be submitted in the form of an 8 inch diameter black and white drawing and include "ALASKA 2009" as part of the design. Name, address and phone number should be on the back of the artwork. If you would like your submission returned, include a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Deadline is June 2, and there is a \$500 prize.

Submit your entries to: The Alaska Mint, 429 W. 4th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska 99501. For more information, call the mint at 1-800-770-6468